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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 5, 1950SCORES LATVIAN SSR PUBLIC-HEALTH SERVICE

Recently, A. A. Krauss, Minister of Public Health Latvian SSR reported on the state of public health services in his jurisdiction.

"The quality of the public-health service has improved greatly," he said, noting that the party organizations were very active in bringing this about. He said that the great decrease in the number of infectious disease cases is proof of his contention that services have improved.

After Krauss's report, the Board of the Ministry of Health USSR decided that the progress was commendable, but that there were still some features in need of improvement. Most of the criticism was directed at the program for increasing hospital bed space. Several Board members noted that there were some regions which do not have the services of competent specialists. It was also noted that in many regions, including such large cities as Riga and Liepaja, there is a very formalistic and lagging compliance with the decree for unification of hospitals and polyclinics. Evidence was also introduced showing that the general level of medical aid is not improving.

The Board charged the administration of the Ministry of Public Health Latvian SSR with inefficiency. They were charged with failure to enforce state decrees for intensive ideo-political training of personnel. Obviously much of the inefficiency is caused by lack of proper political training. It was suggested that provisions be made to establish better liaison between various departments of the Ministry of Public Health Latvian SSR and that greater effort be shown in complying with ministerial decrees and orders.

The Board emphatically told A. A. Krauss that he is going to be held responsible for bringing about noticeable improvement in the performance of his public-health services. He is to tighten the organization of the Latvian Ministry of Public Health and provide for adequate specialized medical aid wherever necessary. Under the Five-Year Plan it is intended that every medical-aid station (even down to rural hospitals) will have facilities for specialized medical aid. Krauss's position, obviously, is far from enviable.

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One of the most important of Krauss's tasks will be to provide for an intensive expansion of the sanitation and epidemiological station network, and to establish well-equipped bacteriological laboratories at each of these stations.

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